

APR 29 1963

Sanitized - Approved For Release

## CAPITAL REPORT

### Letter From Five Senators

By FULTON LEWIS, JR.

WASHINGTON, April 28.—Ten days before Christmas, 1962, Secretary of State Dean Rusk received an urgent letter from five U.S. Senators — two Democrats and three Republicans. They begged the Secretary to instruct our United Nations delegation to "stand firm" on Hungary.

"We are deeply concerned," they wrote, "over recurring reports that the United States may be considering a change in attitude toward the Hungarian question on the U.N. agenda."

The Senators—Thomas Dodd, Eugene McCarthy, Kenneth Keating, Karl Mundt and Hugh Scott—were fearful the U.S. would bow to "neutralist" pressure and drop the very issue that struck "like a bone in a dog's throat" when Nikita Khrushchev visited here in 1959.

The five were familiar with reports that Sir Leslie Munro, an eloquent spokesman for human liberty, would be relieved of his post as Special U.N. Representative on Hungary and his duties transferred to U.N. Secretary General U Thant, Burmese "neutralist."

That proposal, urged by members of the Communist and Afro-Asian blocs, was opposed by the five Senators. They wrote to Rusk that "In our judgment, it would be most difficult for the Secretary General in his position to pursue the matter with the independence and determination which have characterized Sir Leslie Munro's dedicated efforts."

When the votes were tallied, however, Secretary Rusk and Ambassador Adlai Stevenson had rejected the Senators' advice, and the United States voted to abolish Sir Leslie's post.

Thant then accepted an invitation to visit Budapest as official guest of the Communist government. Similar invitations were consistently refused by the late Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld. Sir Leslie, a brilliant anti-Communist, never even considered—much less accepted—such an invitation.

Within days after Sir Leslie was fired, Thant cancelled all U.N. programs beamed to Hungary. His broadcasts, long a target of Red attack, were often the only non-Communist information available to Hungarian people.

STATINTL